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The human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Note verbale dated 26 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council, and has the honour to inform the President of the Human Rights Council that in the early hours of Wednesday, 25 February 2015, the Israeli occupation forces rearrested the Syrian Arab combatant Sidqi al-Maqt, who had been released in August 2012 after spending 27 years in the gloomy prisons of the occupation authorities without any legal or moral justification. The occupation forces stormed into the family home of Sidqi al-Maqt in the village of Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights under cover of darkness. They searched the dwelling, ransacked rooms, destroyed furniture and confiscated the residents' mobile phones without providing any justification for their criminal behaviour, in flagrant violation of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that this is just one of a series of crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Syrian civilians living under the yoke of Israeli occupation in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. It adds to the shameful record, replete with human rights violations, covering the period of more than 47 years since Israel occupied the Syrian Golan Heights. The record lists multiple crimes of intimidation, terrorism, forced displacement, destruction of Syrian towns and villages, plundering of natural resources, destruction of monuments and the natural environment, and other despicable practices. Furthermore, Israel continues, undeterred, to disregard international resolutions ordering it to end its occupation, benefiting from the protection from accountability afforded by certain members of the Security Council.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Security Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all organizations involved in defending human rights to demand that Israel immediately and unconditionally release the abducted detainee Sidqi al-Maqt and that it also release all citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic held in the

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occupation authorities' prisons and detention centres. Syria also calls on all the aforementioned parties to bring pressure to bear on the occupation authorities in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to provide more humane health-care conditions for Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights and to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law. The Syrian Government likewise rejects the sham trials conducted against Syrian prisoners.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic urges the Security Council to take the necessary legal steps to implement its resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israel from the whole of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the borderline of 4 June 1967, in order to bring an end to bloodthirsty Israeli practices and its ongoing violations of the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic requests the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council to publish and circulate the present note verbale in the official languages of the United Nations as a document of the Human Rights Council under item 7 of the agenda of the twenty-eighth session.